

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 L-03 H-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 USIE-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 SCS-03 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9678

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5447

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP MILI OGEN GR

SUBJECT: CASE OF MSG TELESFORO SANCHEZ

REF: ATHENS 5396

1. MFA DIRECTOR THIRD POLITICAL DIVISION, MIGLIARESSIS, INFORMED EMBOFF MORNING JULY 19 THAT AT HEARING HELD BEFORE COURT OF APPEALS PREVIOUS DAY (REFTEL), COURT RULED TO SUSTAIN JUDICIAL DECREE ISSUED JUNE 26 WHICH HAD CONFIRMED LACK OF GREEK JURISDICTION IN SANCHEZ CASE. FAMILY HAS RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS LATEST DECISION TO SUPREME COURT WITHIN COURSE THIS COMING WEEK, I.E., UNTIL JULY 28. IF APPEAL NOT LODGED WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME, MIGLIARESSIS OF OPINION THAT GCM CAN BEGIN FOLLOWING MONDAY, AUGUST 4. IF FAMILY OPTS TO APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT, MIGLIARESSIS EXPRESSED CERTAINTY THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE WOULD EXPEDITE HEARING IN SAME MANNER IT DID FOR COURT OF APPEALS HEARING JULY 18. HE STATED THAT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS--INCLUDING MINISTER STEPHANAKIS HIMSELF--JUST AS EAGER NOW AS MFA OFFICIALS TO BRING ABOUT SPEEDIEST POSSIBLE CONVENING OF GCM. ACCORDINGLY, EVEN ALLOWING FOR SUPREME COURT APPEAL, MIGLIARESSIS STILL FORESEES REALISTIC CHANCES FOR AUGUST TRIAL.

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2. MIGLIARESSIS ALSO STATED THAT HE HAS NO DOUBT NOW THAT PHYSICAL EVIDENCE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE PROMPTLY UPON RESOLUTION OF APPEALS QUESTION--AND THAT MOREOVER ALL REQUIRED WITNESSES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT TRIAL. HE STATED THAT BOTH MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS AND DIRECTOR ATHENS CITY POLICE HAVE COOPERATED IN THIS MATTER TO INSURE THAT WITNESSES NOT ONLY NOW UNDERSTAND CLEARLY THE NECESSITY FOR APPEARING BUT THAT THEY IN FACT WILL APPEAR.
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